
Executive Summary

The Montana Information Technology Act (MITA) was enacted to facilitate effective deployment of information technology resources in Montana, and reduce unnecessary duplication of information technology (IT) resources. MITA assigns responsibility for enterprise IT management to the Department of Administration (DofA). Enterprise IT management describes the goal of coordinating the efforts, spending, and resources for IT across the greater organization of the State of Montana. Where resources used to address these common elements can be shared, instead of duplicated, the state benefits in savings of money, time, hardware/software, and employees.

The scope of this audit included determining responsibilities for addressing MITA implementation, and the effectiveness of the management, policy, planning, and enforcement requirements of MITA. Scope was comprised of three primary objectives, including: to determine whether the rules and procedures established by DofA to implement MITA are consistent with legislative intent, to determine whether the agency IT planning process is effectively achieving the intent of MITA, to determine whether process used by DofA to establish statewide policies present effective and sound policy. Audit work included interviews with DofA management and personnel, and reviewing rules and existing documentation related to MITA, including policies, IT plans, process documents, templates and forms for tasks such as IT purchase requests, and position descriptions. We also attended monthly Information Technology Management Council (ITMC) meetings, a weekly meeting of the Policy and Planning Services Bureau business analyst team, an ITMC sub-committee meeting to discuss two policies, and surveyed agency IT managers regarding DofA's statewide policy and planning activities.

DofA has made some progress towards MITA implementation in select areas, but does not have an established process to ensure the IT planning and overall requirements of MITA are addressed and implemented consistent with legislative intent. Documentation of rules, policy and procedures is minimal and inconsistent. This report contains findings and recommendations addressing the overall implementation of MITA and areas of shortcoming.